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Foreign Crops and MARKETS



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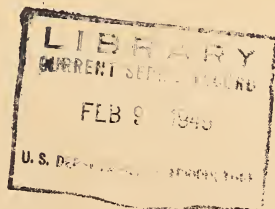
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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

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L A T E N E W S

Shipments of winter vegetables from the west coast of Mexico to Mexico to the United States are expected to be delayed for several weeks because of floods in Sinaloa and Sonora. Two railway bridges, one over the Rio Fuerto near San Blas, Sinaloa, and the other over the Rio Mayo near Navojoa, Sonora were washed away. Flood waters were also endangering growing vegetables in the latter area.

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Cotton exports from the United States during November 1948 amounted to 433,000 bales of 500 pounds gross, making a total of 986,000 bales for the 4 months, August-November. The sharp increase in November over the 3 previous months is attributed to a heavier movement of cotton under the ECA program, especially to Italy (85,000 in November), the United Kingdom (75,000), Bizonal Germany (57,000) and France (50,000). The August-November totals for the principal destinations were: Italy 167,000 bales, France 125,000, Germany 125,000, United Kingdom 112,000, Japan 101,000, China 70,000, Canada 68,000, Netherlands 38,000, Belgium 33,000 and Poland 29,000.

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WORLD 1948 DRIED APRICOT OUTPUT DOWN

The 1948 preliminary estimate of dried apricot production in the United States, Spain, Australia and other leading commercial producing countries is 16,200 short tons compared with 21,800 tons (revised) in 1947 and 22,900 tons (revised) in 1946. The estimated pack in these countries is the smallest since 1945. The estimate is 32 percent below the 5-year (1942-46) average of 23,900 tons and 40 percent below the 10-year (1937-46) average of 27,000 tons.

Increases in production from that of a year ago were reported from Syria, and Union of South Africa, who are relatively minor producers. There were sharp declines in the United States and Spanish production for 1948.

APRICOTS, dried: Estimated commercial production in specified countries, averages 1937-46 and 1942-46, annual 1942-48

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Argentina	Australia	Chile	Spain	South Africa	Syria	Foreign total	United States	World total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
1937-46	100	1,700	a/	2,800	1,000	800	b/ 6,400	20,600	b/27,000
1942-46	300	1,600	100	4,900	500	700	8,100	15,800	23,900
Annual	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
1942	100	2,100	100	4,700	300	500	c/ 7,800	20,800	c/28,600
1943	400	1,400	100	5,500	700	1,000	c/ 9,100	6,600	c/15,700
1944	200	2,100	100	9,600	900	800	13,700	25,800	39,500
1945	500	900	100	2,600	700	600	5,400	7,800	13,200
1946	200	c/1,500	100	2,200	100	600	c/ 4,700	18,200	c/22,900
1947 d/	400	c/1,400	100	c/3,900	300	c/ 500	c/ 6,600	c/15,200	c/21,800
1948 a/	300	1,100	100	1,300	300	1,000	4,200	12,000	16,200
a/	Not available.								
b/	Does not include Chile.								
c/	Revised.								
d/	Preliminary.								

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research or other information.

Growing and harvesting conditions in Argentina, Australia, Chile and the Union of South Africa were generally favorable. The small changes in output from that of the previous year were largely the result of stronger demand for fresh fruit and poor market prospects for dried fruit.

In Spain, growing conditions were less favorable than those of 1947 which resulted in a smaller fresh apricot crop. However, in Spain a strong demand for fresh fruit and apricot pulp, plus the extremely poor market for dried fruit, was the principal reason for a smaller pack of dried fruit.

Spain was again the only foreign country reporting a carry-over from the 1947 pack. The estimates of the Spanish carry-over vary considerably, but it is thought, at least 1,500 short tons were on hand when new crop fruit became available. It is estimated that of this 1,500 tons probably half was from 1946 and earlier years and not generally fit for human consumption or export. It is also reported that about half of the 1947 pack was poor quality and not readily acceptable in foreign markets. These estimates indicate, therefore, that 400 tons of good quality probably were available for export last fall from the 1947 pack.

Exports from the 1947 pack were much better than had been anticipated, having exceeded 2,200 tons. Sweden purchased 704 short tons in June 1948. Earlier in the season Norway had purchased 660 tons, Belgium, 495 tons and Ireland 33 tons. Spanish prices were high but through various agreements this relatively large tonnage was moved. The exportation during the 1948-49 season started with one optimistic note in the form of a shipment of 330 short tons to Finland in September 1948, part of which was old-crop fruit. Other smaller sales were made to Eire and Tangiers and it has been reported other countries are negotiating for various tonnages.

In view of the small pack in Spain in 1948, it appears that the 1948-49 season probably will see all present stocks cleaned up. The Spanish Government to facilitate the exportation of dried apricots, recently granted exporters a more favorable exchange rate. Exporters of dried apricots now will receive 14.78 pesetas per United States dollar instead of the fixed rate of 10.95.

Disposal of the 1948 pack in the Southern Hemisphere countries of Argentina, Chile, Australia and the Union of South Africa followed the usual pattern. The bulk of the pack has been sold in the domestic market. Australia managed to export 271 short tons, mostly to neighboring British areas and the United Kingdom. New Zealand purchased about half the total exports and the United Kingdom 85 tons. Exports from Chile totalled less than a ton. Export statistics for Syria during 1947-48 are not available; however, some exports were made to Egypt and nearby areas. There seems to be some doubt whether Syria will export dried

UNITED STATES: Exports of dried apricots,
averages 1937-46 and 1942-46, annual, 1941-42 to date

Year ended June 30	United Kingdom	Belgium	France	Netherlands	Sweden
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
<u>Averages</u>					
1937-38/1946-47	2,306	571	1,352	530	323
1942-43/1946-47	2,535	335	49	15	63
<u>Annual</u>					
1941-42	4,322	0	0	0	237
1942-43	3,783	0	0	0	a/
1943-44	3,704	0	0	0	40
1944-45	5,153	763	242	0	0
1945-46	a/	15	1	0	a/
1946-47	35	896	1	73	277
1947-48	a/	844	23	122	a/
1948-49 b/	a/	336	38	96	0
	Norway	Denmark	Canada	Other countries	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
<u>Averages</u>					
1937-38/1946-47	213	411	694	1,560	7,960
1942-43/1946-47	54	a/	388	1,379	4,818
<u>Annual</u>					
1941-42	0	1	1,144	1,608	7,312
1942-43	0	0	438	1,144	5,365
1943-44	0	0	130	2,163	6,037
1944-45	0	0	97	1,642	7,897
1945-46	271	0	5	1,077	1,369
1946-47	0	a/	1,269	876	3,427
1947-48	20	2	199	1,193	2,403
1948-49 b/	0	5	115	1,003	1,593

a/ Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ ton.

b/ 4 months only, July through November 1948.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

apricots to Egypt in the 1948-49 season due to the stricter sanitary pack and other regulations now in effect in the latter country. The market in Syria has been dull so far this season, with foreign inquiries being limited and for relatively minor quantities.

United States exports during the 1947-48 marketing season totalled 2,403 tons compared with 3,427 tons in 1946-47. The exports during 1947-48 were only 30 percent of the 10-year average (1937-38/1946-47) of 7,960 tons and 50 percent of the 5-year (1942-43/1946-47) average of 4,818 tons. It was the third poorest year for exports of dried apricots in the past quarter of a century. The more important foreign purchasers during the year were Belgium with 844 short tons; Netherlands Indies 212 tons; Canada 199 tons; Newfoundland and Labrador 153 and Brazil with 137 tons. The lack of import permits occasioned by the reported dollar shortage in most former markets was the principal reason for the small volume of exports.

The 1948-49 season started with export prospects only modestly brighter though the situation is easing with regard to dollar supply in some countries. Exports this season to the end of November have totalled 1,593 short tons. Germany, one of the largest outlets prior to 1934, was the destination for 752 tons during the 4 months period. This is the largest tonnage sent to that country since the 1935-36 season. The Netherlands purchased 96 tons and Belgium 336 during this period. Canada was the destination for 115 tons, which was comparable to the quantity purchased during the corresponding period last season. On this basis indications are that exports this season will exceed those of the season before.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDSCUBA'S RICE IMPORTS AGAIN
EXCEED PREWAR AVERAGE

Cuba in 1948 imported 478 million pounds of rice compared with unusually high receipts of 621 million in the year before, and with the prewar average (1937-41) of 435 million pounds annually. The imports of the preceding year were considerably larger than normal because of over-shipments from the United States in the latter part of the year. Cuban imports during the first quarter of 1948 therefore were relatively small.

Eighty-five percent of Cuba's rice imports in 1948 came from the United States, 9 percent from South American countries, and 6 percent from Mexico and other Central America.

CUBA: Rice imports, in terms of milled, average 1937-41,
by quarters and annual, 1948

Country or area	Average 1937-41	1948					Total
		January- March	April- June	July- August	September- December	Million pounds	
		Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	
Orient.....	201	0	0	0	0	0	0
United States..	232	15	137	38	218	408	
Ecuador.....	1	13	14	a/	0	27	
Mexico.....	0	22	0	0	0	22	
Uruguay.....	0	2	7	0	0	9	
Brazil.....	0	0	0	7	0	7	
Other Countries:	1	2	3	0	0	5	
Total.....	435	54	161	45	218	478	

a/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Compiled from official statistics and ships' manifests.

CANADA REVISES RICE
IMPORT REGULATIONS

Revised regulations governing Canadian import permits of rice and cleaned rice were to become effective January 1, 1949, according to a report from the Embassy at Ottawa. The issuance of a general permit for the importation of uncleaned (rough) rice from the United States was authorized. Until January 1, individual permits were required for the importation of uncleaned rice.

Individual permits must be obtained for each shipment of cleaned rice so that the International Emergency Food Committee's Canadian allocation will not be exceeded.

Canada reportedly has a limited number of mills which are equipped to process uncleaned rice, so that the demand is relatively inelastic. As these mills before January 1 were permitted to import their full requirements under the individual permit system, the issuance of a general permit should not result in an increase in the imports of uncleaned rice.

FATS AND OILS

MALAYAN PALM PRODUCTION INCREASES IN NOVEMBER

Malayan palm-oil production during November was higher than for any previous month in 1948. The output of 5,406 short tons brought the 11-month total to 45,354 tons, an increase of 18 percent over the production for the same period of 1947. The Federation of Malaya held 5,692 tons of palm oil in stock at the end of the month, indicating an increase of 54 percent over the October 31 figure.

Kernel production reached a high of 1,023 tons in November. The January-November outturn totaled 8,510 tons, 53 percent more than for the first 11 months of 1947. Stocks of palm kernels decreased from 1,377 tons on November 1 to 884 at the end of the month.

URUGUAY HARVESTS ABOVE AVERAGE FLAXSEED CROP

Uruguay's 1948 flaxseed crop (harvested November-December) is 5,003,000 bushels from 522,214 acres, according to the first official estimates. Final estimates for 1947 are 3,856,000 bushels and 550,554 acres. The new crop should provide an exportable surplus of about 3,900,000 bushels which will probably be shipped as oil. The Government has not announced the price producers are receiving.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA PRODUCES LARGER OILSEED CROPS

Czechoslovakian oilseed production in 1948 exceeded that of 1947 but fell below the prewar output, according to a report from the American Embassy, Praha. Changeable weather conditions, insufficient fertilizer, and damage by insects and disease are the principal factors responsible for the lower-than-prewar yields.

Due partly to the 1947 drought, farmers planted only 21 percent of the area that had been prescribed for winter rape production for 1948.

However, official reports indicate that they succeeded in covering losses by larger sowings of spring oilseed plantings. Even the fulfillment of the revised plan for oilseed sowing, which was cut almost 50 percent from the original amount, was undoubtedly a result of considerable pressure on the farmers.

Only 5,100 short tons of rapeseed were produced in 1948 compared with 9,000 in 1947 and a record of 27,300 in 1945. Mustard-seed output reached a possible high of 15,570 tons compared with 6,100 in 1947 and less than 1,000 tons prewar. Poppy seed amounted to 15,100 tons compared with 10,200 in 1947. Flaxseed output of 439,000 bushels more than doubled the previous year's production. The hempseed crop of about 2,800 tons was only slightly larger than in 1947 but much below prewar. Sunflower-seed production was not reported for 1945-47, but in 1948, 2,900 tons were produced, less than half the 1936 output.

Much emphasis is placed on oilseed production in Czechoslovakia at present. Lack of fat is one of the greatest deficiencies of the food ration as deliveries of milk for butter and the production of lard continue to be low. For ordinary consumers there was no ration of butter between September 1, 1947 and July 1, 1948 and no ration of lard after April 30, 1948 except for the month of August.

In an official announcement of the Ministry of Food, farmers were ordered to deliver all of their crop of oilseeds except the necessary amount of seed for next year's planting and the self-suppliers ration of 3 kilograms (6.6 pounds) of poppy seed per person in the household of the producer. Furthermore, as an inducement for better deliveries, farmers who deliver their oilseeds for processing and for seed prior to specified dates are permitted to obtain extra rations of margarine.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Oilseed production, 1948 with comparisons

Oilseed	1945	1946	1947	1948 <u>a/</u>
	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>
Rapeseed.....	27,341	17,066	9,084	5,105
Mustard seed.....	839	7,150	6,124	15,571
Poppy seed.....	17,083	13,283	10,232	15,112
Flaxseed <u>b/</u>	<u>c/</u>	277	212	439
Hempseed.....	3,049	3,807	2,559	2,772
Sunflower seed.....	<u>c/</u>	<u>c/</u>	<u>c/</u>	2,905

a/ Preliminary. b/ 1,000 bushels. c/ Not reported.

American Embassy, Praha.

TUNISIA PRODUCES POTENTIAL EXPORT SURPLUS OF OLIVE OIL

After 3 consecutive years of poor olive-oil yields, Tunisia has a potential export surplus of approximately 16,500 short tons of edible oil from its 1948-49 production. This estimate is based on production forecasts ranging from 45,000 to 55,000 tons and domestic requirements of approximately 33,000 tons. Tunisia is the only Mediterranean olive-oil producing country that anticipates an exportable surplus as all of the large producers have very poor 1948-49 olive crops.

The Tunisian Government, faced with the task of safe-guarding local consumption needs and at the same time of encouraging exports of olive oil to hard currency areas, evolved during the last quarter of 1948 new regulations covering all phases of production, sale, and exportation for the 1948-49 season.

These regulations may be summed up as follows:

All olive oil as manufactured must be placed at the disposal of the Tunisian Food Supply Service. The Government continues to fix prices and to exercise complete control over the production, sales, transportation, and exportation of olive oil. On the wholesale level, olive oil may be handled solely by wholesalers authorized by the Government, and export quotas are prorated between wholesalers according to the quantities they commercialize. It is noteworthy that exports should go to direct consumer countries in hard currency areas.

According to trade estimates, the amount of government-controlled stocks held by authorized wholesalers, should total from 45,000 to 50,000 tons this season. The first exportable quota permitted by the Government is 10 percent, or about 5,000 tons, of the commercialized oil. Further quotas for exports will be authorized subsequently, unless commercializations of oil fail to reach expectations. 1/

1/ Based in part upon a report by M. E. Jeneid, Chief, Commercial Section, American Consulate General, Tunis, Tunisia.

PHILIPPINE COPRA EXPORTS DOWN FROM 1947 HIGH

Philippine copra and coconut-oil (terms of copra) exports in 1948 were 30 percent less than the record shipments of 1947 but 24 percent more than the 1935-39 average. Total 1948 exports amounted to 692,273 long tons (in terms of copra), compared with 1,005,338 in 1947 and 556,579, the prewar average. The United States was the recipient of 429,718 tons or 62 percent of the total.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Copra exports, December 1948 with comparisons
(Long tons)

Country a/	Copra distribution				
	Average 1935-39	1947 b/	Jan-Nov.: 1948 b/	December 1947 b/	1948 b/
United States (total)...	206,801	585,620	339,153	52,470	24,949
Atlantic Coast.....	-	116,034	55,120	8,014	6,498
Gulf Coast.....	-	77,155	61,100	6,382	8,220
Pacific Coast.....	-	392,431	222,933	38,074	10,231
Canada.....	-	16,607	15,049	-	2,000
Costa Rica.....	-	-	100	-	-
Mexico.....	7,260	1,500	-	-	-
Panama Canal Zone.....	-	1,009	2,064	200	-
Columbia.....	-	5,300	3,828	-	3,167
Venezuela.....	-	7,862	2,525	-	1,343
Austria.....	-	6,000	6,000	-	-
Belgium.....	10	10,306	1,000	2,725	-
Czechoslovakia.....	-	7,676	-	-	-
Denmark.....	6,025	44,823	22,536	2,162	4,000
France.....	24,589	73,232	61,562	1,000	4,350
Bizonal Germany.....	7,309	11,220	15,000	1,720	2,250
Italy.....	4,079	26,076	19,000	-	2,900
Netherlands.....	28,415	7,962	7,949	262	1,000
Norway.....	91	15,719	9,276	-	-
Poland.....	-	21,762	28,750	1,500	2,999
Sweden.....	4,183	11,898	4,748	-	-
Switzerland.....	-	12,379	1,000	-	-
United Kingdom.....	80	24,250	-	-	-
Yugoslavia.....	-	13,283	-	-	-
India.....	-	13,200	-	-	-
Japan.....	1,047	16,100	24,339	9,600	-
Palestine.....	-	7,510	-	-	-
Syria.....	-	-	1,443	-	-
Egypt.....	1,271	3,560	-	-	-
French Morocco.....	-	6,050	-	-	-
Union of South Africa...	-	16,579	-	2,000	-
Others.....	8,678	949	6,500	-	4,850
Total.....	299,838	968,432	571,822	73,639	53,808

a/ Declared destination. b/ Preliminary.

c/ November 1948 shipments revised from 58,746 to 54,696 tons. The following changes were reported: U.S. Atlantic Coast 9,297, U.S. Gulf Coast 9,956, U.S. Pacific Coast 12,400, France 750, Bizonal Germany 9,650, Italy 3,600, Norway (reported in others) 1,000, Others 500.

American Embassy, Manila.

December copra exports totaled 53,808 tons, almost 2 percent less than in November (revised) bringing the 12-month figure for 1948 to 625,630 tons. Coconut-oil shipments for December, all to the United States, amounted to 5,670 tons and the total oil exports for 1948 to 41,985.

Copra prices dropped drastically during January. Local buying prices were nominally quoted in mid-January at about 30 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$152.41 per long ton) in Manila and 27 (\$137.17) to 30 pesos in producing regions. Sales to the United States Pacific Coast were around \$190 c.i.f. and European sales \$187.50 per long ton f.o.b. Local buying prices in early December were 49 to 50 pesos (\$249 to \$254) in Manila and 45 to 50 (\$229 to \$254) in producing areas.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

COTTON CONSUMPTION IN GREECE SLIGHTLY LOWER

Some slackening of cotton consumption in Greece since last September due to decreasing demand for cloth is reported by Jay G. Diamond, U. S. Agricultural Attache at Athens.

Mill takings for the past 2 years have been maintained at about 85,000 bales, (480 pounds net) or at about the prewar level. Earlier estimates indicate an expected small increase in consumption for the 1948-49 season as a whole. Unless there is an increase in domestic demand for cotton textiles, however, this increase may not be realized.

In the prewar period Greece imported about 20 percent of the national cotton yarn and cloth requirements. Thus, under normal conditions some expansion of textile capacity to supply domestic requirements seem likely. Greece plans to replace worn-out and obsolete cotton-mill machinery with ECA help.

Greece can now supply more than half its raw cotton consumption requirement from local production. The 1948 crop has been estimated at 53,000 bales, leaving an estimated 36,000 bales to be supplied by imports. The United States will supply the largest part of these imports during the 1948-49 season. The Economic Cooperation Administration has already authorized (through December 31, 1948), the procurement of 28,700 bales of United States cotton with ECA funds. During the 1947-48 season Greece secured most of its cotton imports from Egypt, Brazil, and India. The United States supplied less than 7 percent of the Greek cotton imports last season.

The Greek Government has not established a farm "security" price for cotton as for other principal crops. Instead, the government is restricting cotton imports to maintain domestic prices at a favorable level. Under this program cotton manufacturers were obliged to purchase 30 percent of the 1948 crop by November 30; another 40 percent by February 28 and the remainder by May 31, 1949.

(Continued on Page 61)

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS
ON FOREIGN MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the U.S. gulf port average

Market location kind, and quality	Date 1949	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria	:	Kantar	:	:	:
Ashmouni, Good.....	1-20	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	58.65	48.94
Ashmouni, F.G.F.....	"	"	"	56.65	47.27
Karnak, Good.....	"	"	"	97.75	81.56
Karnak, F.G.F.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Bombay	:	Candy	:	:	:
Jarila, Fine.....	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	620.00	23.86
Broach, Fine.....	"	"	"	650.00	25.01
Kampala, East Africa....	"	"	"	(not available)	
Karachi	:	Maund	:	:	:
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine....	:	82.28 lbs.	"	:	:
289F Sind, S.F., Fine....	:	"	"	:	:
289 Punjab, S.G., Fine....	:	"	"	:	:
Buenos Aires	:	Metric ton	:	:	:
Type B.....	1-19	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	a/3350.00	45.24
Lima	:	Sp. quintal	:	:	:
Tanguis, Type 5.....	1-18	101.4 lbs.	Sol	(not quoted)	
Pima, Type 1.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Recife	:	Arroba	:	:	:
Mata, Type 4.....	1-20	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	200.00	32.90
Sertao, Type 5.....	"	"	"	210.00	34.55
Sao Paulo	:	:	:	:	:
Sal Paulo, Type 5.....	1-19	2	"	214.00	35.21
Torreon	:	Sp. quintal	:	:	:
Middling, 15/16".....	1-20	101.4 lbs.	Peso	181.50	26.01
Houston-Galveston-New	:	:	:	:	:
Oreloans av. Mid.15/16"	"	Pound	Cent	XXXX	32.77

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

a/ Nominal.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTSURUGUAYAN WOOL
OUTLOOK BRIGHT

With prices the highest in history, wool continues to be Uruguay's most profitable export commodity. The United States is by far the best customer for Uruguayan wool, accounting for 64 percent of the exports of that commodity for the 1947-48 season. Due to the high prices paid for wool during the last few years, sheep numbers in Uruguay have increased, being estimated at 22 million head.

Shearing was late during the present season and was not completed until the end of November. The new clip is estimated at 68,000 metric tons of greasy wool which is approximately the same amount as was produced the previous season. The wool clip was a little lighter than expected, due to weather conditions just before shearing. In the northern part of the country the weather was very dry for several months before shearing and there was a serious outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. In other sections heavy rains came just before shearing, and thus reduced the weight of the wool. During shearing, however, weather conditions were excellent and the sheep came through in good condition.

Raw wool accounted for 34 percent of total exports by value in 1946 and 44 percent in 1947. Grease wool exports in 1946 amounted to 58,973 metric tons valued at over U.S. \$52 million. In 1947 wool exports rose to 68,335 metric tons valued at over 71 million dollars. Uruguayan wool is of unusually good quality and is free from excessive foreign matter in normal seasons. Only about 15 percent of the annual clip is considered low grade and less than 5 percent is unfit for spinning. There is virtually no high-grade wool on hand from previous clips and much of the new clip is already contracted for. The chief concern of the industry is the disposal of the low-grade wool, which is finding a slow market.

It is calculated that at present Uruguay consumes about 11 percent of its production. New spinning and weaving factories are coming into production and it is expected that the percentage of wool processed within the country will increase. The local outlook for the entire industry is very favorable, and if wool prices continue good, sheep numbers are likely to increase.

GREEK COTTON CONSUMPTION

(Continued from Page 58)

The Hellenic Cotton Board reports prevailing prices received by farmers for the 1948 crop at 35 to 41 cents per pound (10,000 to 11,500 drachmae per oka). Farmers received from 34 to 38 cents per pound for the 1947 crop.

While the 1948 crop of 53,000 bales, however, is still far below the 1935-39 average of 76,000 bales, cotton from the standpoint of prices paid to farmers, is in a relatively more favorable position than most other crops in Greece.

The big decline in wheat planting in the fall of 1948 will make available up to half a million acres for spring crops. Much of this acreage is in cotton-growing areas, and undoubtedly a considerable amount of it will be planted to cotton. Under these conditions there should be a substantial increase in Greek cotton acreage this year.

